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THE KABUL TIMES

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Kabul 04° Cloudy | Kandahar 19° showers | Herat 13° Sunny | Jalalabad 17° Cloudy | Mazar-e-Sharif 12° Rain | Bamyan -3° Sunny

Muttqi asks ICRC to assist in identifying Afghan prisoners abroad



KABUL: Mawlavi Amir Khan Muttaqi, the acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Emirate, has met with Pierre Krähenbühl, Director-General of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and asked the ICRC to collaborate in identifying and obtaining information about Afghan prisoners held in other countries.

Muttqi expressed appreciation for the ICRC's support during the decades of conflict and instability for vulnerable Afghan groups, including patients and individuals with disabilities, calling it a source of pride for Afghans, the ministry said in a statement Monday.Meanwhile, the ICRC president noted that restrictions imposed by certain countries on the committee's access to prisoners have posed challenges. He also mentioned that the decisions and resolutions of the ICRC are independent of other organizations and international bodies, ensuring their continued support and activities in Afghanistan.The ICRC is a global humanitarian organization that operates in health, prisoner transfers, and aid for war victims.

The Kabul Times

Mistreatment of Afghan refugees against Islamic, international principles, ministry

KABUL: The Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations, in a statement on Monday, condemned the forced expulsion of Afghan migrants in Balochistan of Pakistan.

"Pakistani police entered the homes of Afghan refugees in the Quetta and Kuchlak areas at night, forcibly removing several individuals and subjecting them to mistreatment on February 17," said the statement.

During this crackdown, police arrested a number of refugees, including 65 children and 30 women, and subsequently expelled them from Pakistan.

The Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) deemed the action of the Pakistani police as contrary to all Islamic and international principles and laws and called on international organizations to provide assistance for Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

The Pakistani government has also been urged to consider the principles and standards of migration international laws and refrain from the forced deportation and harassment of Afghan migrants.

The Kabul Times



Six check dams to be constructed in Khost

KHOST: Construction work has officially been kicked off on six check dams worth $120,000 in the country's eastern province of Khost, the provincial governor's press office said in a statement the other day.

The projects are funded by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and will be implemented in the Sabari, Bak, and Zazi Maidan districts of Khost to address key environmental and water management challenges, improve water management, prevent soil erosion, and enhance groundwater levels, the statement said.



The check dams, each ranging from 15 to 20 meters in length, 5 to 6 meters in height, and 4 to 5 meters in width, are expected to provide long-term and short-term benefits to local communities.

During the construction phase, job opportunities will be generated for the residents.

The project is part of a broader initiative to tackle water scarcity and environmental challenges in the region while also promoting sustainable development and supporting local livelihoods.

The Kabul Times

Seminar held to assess opportunities, challenges of the tourism industry in Herat

HERAT: A seminar has been held in the country's western province of Herat to evaluate opportunities and challenges of the tourism industry, the provincial Information and Culture Department said in a statement Monday.

Addressing the seminar, Mawlavi Ahmadullah Muttaqi, head of the provincial Information and Culture, said that the tourism industry has significantly developed in the province, and thousands of domestic and foreign tourists have visited the historical and recreational sites of Herat. Appreciating the organizer of the seminar, Muttaqi considered the role of Industrialists as vital in the development and reconstruction of the province. He emphasized that the Islamic Emirate has made lots of efforts to facilitate a suitable investment ground for investors nationwide. **The Kabul Times**

Book Evaluation Commission holds meeting

KABUL: The meeting of the Book Evaluation Commission was held with the Deputy Minister of Information and Culture for the PublicationsAffairs, Mawlavi Muhajer Farahi, on the chair, evaluating a number of books, the ministry said in a statement Monday.



Talking about the achievements and decisions of the previous meeting, Farahi added that books that do not conflict with the principles of Sharia and national values are allowed to be published, according to the statement.The members of the commission Evaluated a number of books, including the list of books that have been provided by the Omati Publication. The commission decided to allow the publication of those books that have been written according to Islamic and Afghan values, the statement added. Also, a number of books that have been presented to the commission for assessment were distributed to the commission's members, and they were instructed to evaluate and share their findings in the next meeting.

The Kabul Times

Western countries use human rights as political pressure on Islamic Emirate, spokesperson

KABUL: The spokesman of the Ministry of Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice, Saif-ul-Islam Khyber, said the other day that criticism of the laws, activities, and strategies of the ministry under the name of women's human rights reflects the double standards of international norms, using human rights slogans as a tool for political pressure.

Responding to a joint statement by 17 countries regarding the restrictions imposed on women in Afghanistan, he stated that criticism of the ministry under the banner of women's rights is a clear sign of the world's double standards and a form of political pressure against the Islamic Emirate.



"Afghanistan is an Islamic country, and Islamic laws have defined fair rights for women, children, and all segments of the society," he said.

About three days ago, female foreign ministers from 17 countries, including Canada, Australia, Germany, and representatives of the European Union, expressed concerns in a joint statement regarding the restrictions imposed on women in Afghanistan.

They stressed that no government can achieve sustainable peace, prosperity, and a viable future without the participation of women and urged the Islamic Emirate to lift the restrictions imposed on Afghan women.

The Kabul Times

126,000 acres of land announced Emirati in Zabul, ministry

KABUL: The Ministry of Justice said in a statement the other day that 126,000 acres of land have been announced as Emirati land in Zabul province in the past one month of the current solar year.

The Land Usurpation Prevention Commission's technical gathering in Zabul province extensively deliberated on the matter concerning 125,950 acres of land in the Shahr-e-Safa district, confirming it as property of the Emirate, the statement said.

A few days ago, 16,578 cares of lanf has been identified as Emirati and reclaimed from the usurpers in Ghor, Kunduz, Uruzgan and Nimruz provinces.

The process of reviewing, approving and returning state land continues in all provinces and cases of thousands of acres of confiscated land are under investigation by the relevant commission.

The Kabul Times



DAB auctions $20 mln in open market

KABUL: The Da Afghanistan Bank, the country's Central Bank auctions 20 million U.S. dollars in order to maintain and stabilize the value of the Afghani currency, the bank said in a statement the other day.

The bank asked eligible banks, foreign exchange dealers (FXDs) and money service providers (MSPs) to participate in this tender.



The Afghanistan central bank said that the winners of the auction are obliged to clear their accounts by the end of the auction day.Partial settlement of transactions is not allowed in currency auction bids. The winners of the tender are obliged to deliver the money owed to Da Afghanistan Bank/ Afghanistan Central Bank in cash once within a certain period," the statement said.""The bank has previously sold millions of dollars through similar auctions in order to maintain and stabilize the value of the Afghani currency.

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Food for thought

Today's generation guarantees our bright future

Supporting private sector helps reconstruct, develop country

As we know Afghanistan is a rich country due to its proper vast natural resources

and central geographical location in the region; however, due to decades of wars imposed by foreign invaders, which resulted in mass casualties and displacements, the Afghan nation has faced economic problems, and the country has been left behind in development compared to the neighboring and regional countries.

Because the occupiers want to take advantage of our country by appointing some of our countrymen as their mercenaries, taking them as spies, and using them to destroy this country.

During the years of instability, Afghanistan has been mostly dependent on imports, and it is clear that importing countries are always facing political and economic pressure from other countries.

During this period, Afghan investors and traders could not have invested in the country due to insecurities, but their goods and human resources were being used for the benefit of other countries.

With the re-establishment of the Islamic Emirate in mid-August 2021, Afghanistan has gained its independence and the overall security situation has improved.

Therefore, it is their religious, moral, and patriotic obligation to work day and night for the construction, development, and prosperity of their country and not to neglect it for a single moment.

It should be said that although the government has a major role and a heavy responsibility in this regard. But no country has been built solely on government taxes and customs revenues without private investment. The truth is that the main duty of the government is to ensure the security of its people, provide judicial, health, and educational services, and prepare arrangements and plans for development.

So, the implementation of development projects requires more costs and must be included in private companies and carried out properly.

The entire Afghan nation must understand and believe that the protection of the country's independence, development, and prosperity, as well as the prosperity of our present and future generations, certainly requires a national spirit and a general feeling of passion.

This means that every Afghan who has some ability and potential in any field should not spare any efforts in the country's reconstruction and development.

As the private sector is considered as an engine of economic growth and job creation in a country, all necessary facilities must be provided to them so that they do their job and contribute in the country's development and reconstruction.

In general, the private sector provides goods and services, generates tax revenues to finance essential social and economic infrastructure, develops new and innovative solutions that help tackle development challenges and it is a central actor in addressing climate change.

In Afghanistan, the private sector has also played a key role in economic growth in the past few years.

With the Islamic Emirate takeover and the improvement of the overall security situation, most challenges facing the private sector have been addressed and the Islamic Emirate is working to provide the necessary ground for the private sector to take an active part in the development of the country.

It is worth mentioning that the Islamic Emirate has stepped up to address challenges facing the private sector as the private sector can be an important strategic partner for the government in achieving its vision to help eradicate poverty and create jobs for the population.

Role of media in shaping public opinion

Part I

Consequently, international organizations, foreign governments, ruling authorities, political parties, and others constantly strive to influence media outlets and use them to advance their own goals. Alongside traditional media such as radio, television, and print journalism, the emergence of social media in recent years has challenged conventional media's role.

In today's complex and ever-changing world, hardly anyone remains unfamiliar with the phenomenon of media and its significance.

Media is considered one of the most powerful tools for shaping and directing public opinion.

With the advancement of information technology, mass communication channels—including television, radio, newspapers, and social networks—have an unprecedented influence on people's thinking, judgment, and decision-making.

Regardless of whether this influence is positive or negative, it is crucial to acknowledge that media today not only transmits information but also has the ability to shape public viewpoints through content selection and presentation.

Although one of the primary roles of all types of media is to provide accurate information, media in every society functions as the eyes and ears of the people, keeping citizens informed about domestic and international events.

However, this information dissemination has not always been impartial.

It is essential to recognize that media possesses the power to steer public opinion in a specific direction by choosing which news to report, how to cover it, and the extent to which a particular issue is emphasized.

Whether we like it or not, we must admit that media plays a significant role in shaping public discourse.

Social, political, and cultural issues only become collective concerns when the media highlights them.

Many topics remain in the shadows without media coverage, while some relatively minor issues gain priority in society through extensive promotion.

This reality demonstrates that media plays a crucial role in setting the intellectual



agenda of a society—in other words, it holds the key to guiding public opinion.

The power of media in shaping public perception becomes especially evident during times of crisis.

In wars, social protests, and crises, media can be used as a tool to control public thought.

The narrative and portrayal of an event determine how people's emotions are stirred in a particular direction.

Consequently, international organizations, foreign governments, ruling authorities, political parties, and others constantly strive to influence media outlets and use them to advance their own goals. Alongside traditional media such as radio, television, and print journalism, the emergence of social media in recent years has challenged conventional media's role.

Today, anyone with a smartphone and internet access can become a journalist or an analyst.

This accessibility has created numerous opportunities for raising awareness, yet it has also facilitated the spread of misinformation and rumors.

The proliferation of fake news and misleading information is one of the major challenges of modern media, as it easily deceives the public and creates social anxiety. Sociologists believe that media, in itself, is a neutral phenomenon.

If media managers choose, they can use it as a key tool for public awareness and the collective good.

Otherwise, the opposite can occur. Therefore, it is not the media itself that should be blamed, but rather the individuals in charge who, through content creation and policy-making, determine its direction.

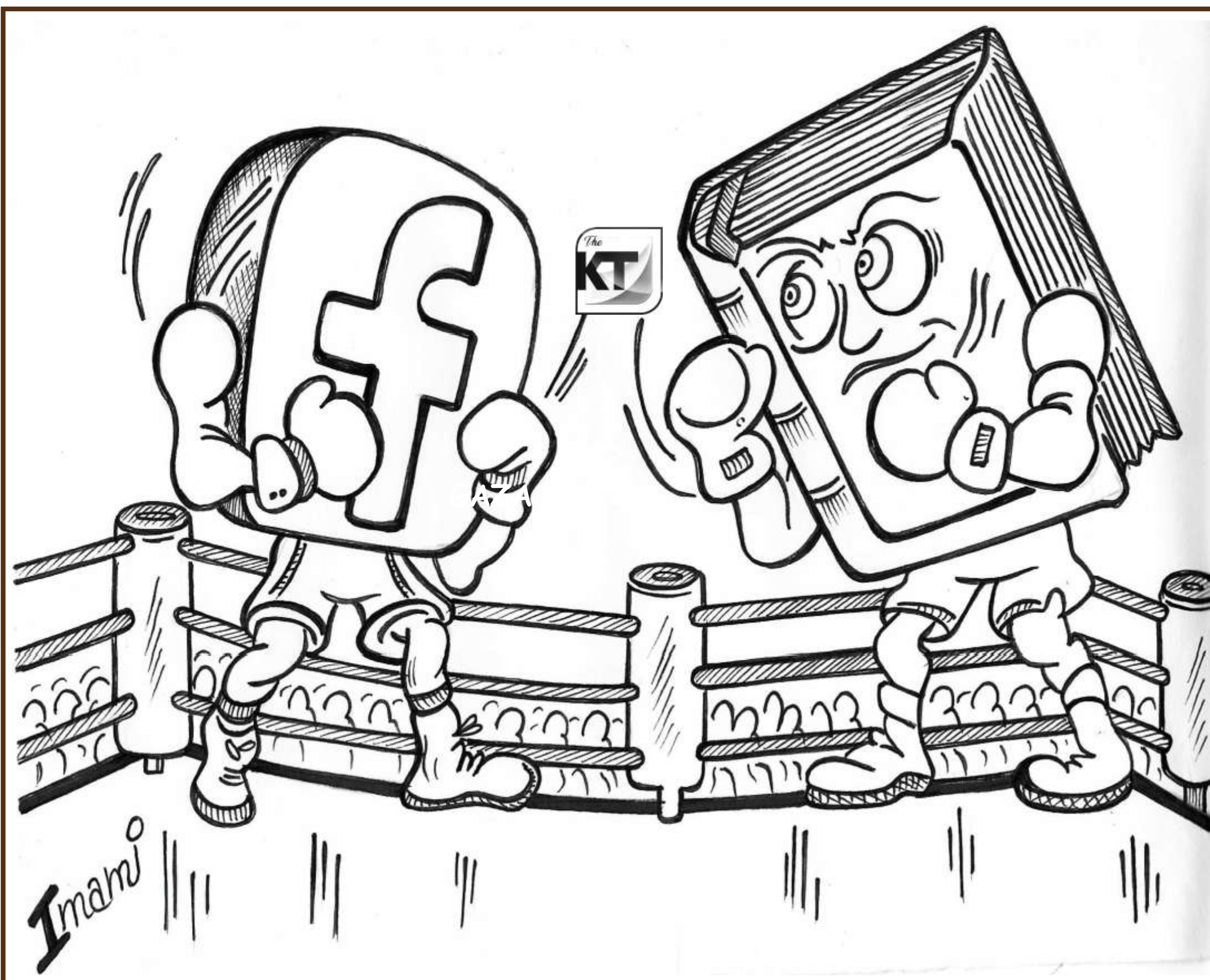
In other words, media is a double-edged sword—it can either guide society toward progress, development, and knowledge or become a tool for deception and public manipulation.

As a collective tool, media can play a role in strengthening or weakening social values.

The way culture, traditions, and identity are represented in the media has a direct impact on people's beliefs and perspectives.

Experience has shown that, in the past, some media outlets have, in certain cases, weakened local values and promoted Western lifestyles, leading to social changes and even identity crises.

Firooz Ahmad Ebrahemi



Impact of migration on cultural identity of Afghans

Migration has been a defining aspect of Afghan history, with waves of displacement caused by wars, economic hardships, and political instability.

Millions of Afghans have migrated to neighboring countries such as Pakistan and Iran, as well as Western nations like the United States, Canada, and Germany.



While migration has provided new opportunities, it has also posed challenges to Afghan cultural identity.

This study explores how migration affects Afghan traditions, language, values, and sense of belonging.

One of the most significant impacts of migration is the adaptation to new cultural environments.

Afghans living in foreign lands often face the dilemma of preserving their traditions while integrating into a new society.

Over time, cultural practices evolve as migrants adopt aspects of the host country's lifestyle.

Younger generations, in particular, are more likely to embrace new customs, dress styles, and social norms.

This gradual shift can sometimes create a generational gap between Afghan parents and their children, who may struggle to balance their Afghan heritage with their adopted identity.

Language is a key element of cultural identity, and migration can significantly influence linguistic practices among Afghans.

In host countries, many Afghan children grow up speaking the dominant language of their new home, such as English, German, or French, while their fluency in Dari or Pashto diminishes over time.

This linguistic transformation can weaken intergenerational communication within Afghan families, leading to a disconnect between elders and youth.

Additionally, some Afghans develop hybrid dialects, blending words and expressions from their host country's language with their native tongue.

Despite the challenges, many Afghan migrants actively strive to preserve their cultural and religious traditions.

Afghan communities abroad often establish cultural centers, mosques, and social organizations that help maintain their customs.

Festivals such as Eid is celebrated in Afghan diaspora communities, keeping traditions alive.

Religious practices, too, play a significant role in maintaining Afghan identity, as many migrants turn to their faith to preserve a sense of belonging and unity in foreign lands.

For many Afghan migrants, the concept of 'home' becomes complex.

While they may find economic stability and safety in their new countries, emotional ties to Afghanistan remain strong.

Nostalgia plays a significant role in shaping their identity, with many longing for their homeland despite its difficulties.

Some migrants actively engage in Afghan politics and humanitarian efforts from abroad, hoping to contribute to their country's future.

Others return periodically to reconnect with their roots, ensuring their children understand and appreciate their Afghan heritage.

Migration has a profound impact on Afghan cultural identity, influencing language, traditions, family dynamics, and the sense of belonging.

While some aspects of Afghan culture evolve in response to new environments, efforts to preserve heritage remain strong.

The balance between adaptation and preservation defines the unique identity of the Afghan diaspora, ensuring that even far from home, Afghan culture continues to thrive.

Mukhtar Safi

Current U.S. hegemonic policies and their impact on international politics

Many analysts believe that Trump's policies have led to a decline in global trust in the United States' commitments and role.

The withdrawal from international agreements such as the Iran nuclear deal (JCPOA) and the Paris Climate Accord demonstrated that the U.S. does not adhere to its international obligations.

This has led other countries to seek new alliances independent of the U.S. Analysts argue that this trend could result in a decline in U.S. influence and role in the international system, paving the way for the emergence of a new global order in which America's dominance is diminished.

Trump's policies of increasing the military budget and escalating tensions with various countries have intensified military and arms competition.

Military analysts believe this trend may lead to new wars and increased military expenditures in different countries.

This, in turn, could reduce financial resources needed for domestic development and welfare, exacerbating global instability.

Economic analysts argue that Trump's economic policies, which emphasize U.S. national interests and impose heavy trade tariffs, have heightened trade tensions and reduced international economic cooperation.

This trend could lead to increased economic inequalities and a slowdown in global economic growth.

The early signs of these consequences can already be observed in regional economies.

While these policies may serve short-term U.S. interests, in the long run, they will have negative repercussions on the global economy.

If we take a realistic perspective, it becomes evident that Trump's policies, by focusing on bilateral agreements and reducing U.S. involvement in international organizations and multilateral agreements, have weakened global cooperation.

This trend may reduce U.S. influence in addressing global challenges such as climate change, global security, and human rights.

Analysts believe these policies have harmed the global order and international cooperation, creating new challenges for addressing worldwide issues.

Domestic analysts in the U.S. argue that Trump's strict immigration policies and divisive rhetoric have deepened social and political divisions within American society.

This trend could reduce national cohesion and increase social tensions.

See P4



Afghanistan's growing unemployment problem and solution

The increasing unemployment rate in Afghanistan is getting more serious and challenging bypassing every single day.

Both poverty and unemployment are two major problems that not only affect the lives of individuals but also have a negative impact on the overall development of society.

These problems have been exacerbated in our country by years of war, political instability, and international sanctions.

Many people believe that the only way to address the unemployment problem is to increase the number of jobs in government institutions, which is not practical.

Although the government is committed to improving the lives of the people, government jobs alone cannot reduce the unemployment rate in the country, as government institutions have limited budgets and structural capacity, and even if the structural capacity and budget are increased, they still cannot cover the unemployed individuals in society.

The principal solution to unemployment in the country is to strengthen the private sector, support small and medium-sized businesses, and provide economic opportunities to the people. In many developed countries, the unemployment rate has been addressed through private investment, innovation, and creativity.

If Afghanistan also wants to find a solution to this problem, then it must provide all necessary ground for people's business, industry, and productive activities.

It is time for the government to create specific policies, provide the people and businessmen with facilities, and increase financing opportunities for the growth of small businesses.

As there are countless opportunities in agriculture, livestock, honey production, industries, services, transportation, and other sectors, it is time for the government to support these opportunities through loans, technical training, marketing, and legal facilities, which will help thousands of Afghans to become self-sufficient and enable to provide employment instead of duty.



On the other hand, people should also know that work is not just about government jobs, but any income-generating activity that is legitimate and responds to the needs of society is considered work.

Youth should focus on learning skills, thinking about small businesses, agriculture, and industry; besides, they should make effort towards economic growth through innovation.

Afghanistan has vast potential for trade, manufacturing, agriculture, and services.

If these potentials are managed, not only can the unemployment problem be solved, but the country will also move towards economic growth.

The main solution to unemployment in the country is to develop the private sector, change the work culture of the people, and provide serious support to the government for the economic mobility of the people.

The Islamic Emirate is working in several important areas to reduce poverty and unemployment in the country.

The launch of infrastructure projects, efforts towards the industrialization of agriculture, and the exploitation of natural resources are important measures that have been adopted to increase economic activities and create job opportunities.

In addition, the Islamic Emirate is trying to create easy conditions for the private sector to encourage investors to widely take part in investments in various areas of the country. **Fida Mohammad**

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Currency	Amount		Rate
USD	01	AFN	73.80
GBP	01	AFN	92.89
INR	1000	AFN	851
PKR	1000	AFN	255
EUR	01	AFN	77.40
IRR	1000	AFN	01.34
AED	01	AFN	20.09



Kabul boxing team trials wrap up, 26 fighters selected

The selection competitions for Kabul's boxing team wrapped up after eight days, identifying the top athletes to represent the province.

The tournament, organized by the Afghanistan Boxing Federation, focused on the youth category and saw intense participation from aspiring boxers. According to officials from the sports department, a total of 320 competitors took part in the event, demonstrating their skills and determination in the ring. After several rounds of matches, 26 outstanding boxers secured their spots on the Kabul boxing team.

These athletes stood out due to their performance, technical abilities, and endurance, earning them a place among the province's best. The successful conclusion of this tournament highlights the growing interest in boxing among Afghan youth and the continued efforts of sports authorities to nurture talent. Officials hope that such events will not only strengthen Kabul's boxing team but also contribute to the development of the sport at the national level.

With the newly selected team, Kabul is expected to compete in upcoming national and international boxing events. Sports officials emphasized the importance of providing further training and support to these young athletes, ensuring they are well-prepared for future challenges.

The Afghanistan Boxing Federation continues to play a key role in organizing competitions and training programs, aiming to enhance the country's presence in international boxing arenas.

The Kabul Times



Dara-e-Suf secures first victory in Mazar-e-Sharif Buzkashi tournament

The ongoing Buzkashi tournament in Mazar-e-Sharif saw an intense and thrilling match yesterday, where the Dara-e-Suf team secured a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Sar-e-Pul.

This win marked Dara-e-Suf's first triumph in the competition.

The match was fiercely contested, with both teams displaying remarkable skill and determination.

However, it was Dara-e-Suf's riders who ultimately outperformed their opponents. Their players, Pahlawan Sher Mohammad and Raz Mohammad, successfully carried the goat carcass into the scoring circle, securing the two decisive points for their team.

Buzkashi, a traditional equestrian sport deeply rooted in Afghan culture, continues to attract passionate players and enthusiastic spectators. The tournament in Mazar-i-Sharif has brought together some of the most skilled riders from different regions, all competing for supremacy in this challenging and physically demanding sport.



With this victory, Dara-e-Suf has gained momentum in the tournament, boosting their confidence for the upcoming matches.

Meanwhile, Sar-e-Pul will need to regroup and strategize for their next games to stay competitive in the event.

The tournament organizers and fans eagerly anticipate more exhilarating matches as the competition progresses, showcasing the strength, endurance, and expertise of Afghanistan's finest Buzkashi riders.

The Kabul Times

Afghanistan wins 27 medals, takes second place in Martial arts tournament

Afghanistan secured second place in the 2025 International Humanitarian Martial Arts Tournament, held in Kermanshah, Iran. Afghan athletes demonstrated remarkable skill and determination, winning a total of 27 medals, including 6 gold, 9 silver, and 12 bronze.

The tournament featured competitions across various martial arts disciplines, including Osport, Agsaya, Ogsaya, Sumo Team, and Baoluz. Athletes from 12 countries participated in the event, which took place from February 11 to February 15.

Iran, as the host nation, claimed the first position, while Iraq secured third place. Afghanistan's impressive performance highlights the country's growing strength in martial arts and the dedication of its athletes.

Afghan sports officials expressed their pride in the team's achievement, emphasizing that such international tournaments provide a valuable platform for Afghan martial artists to gain experience and showcase their talent on a global stage.

The International Humanitarian Martial Arts Tournament aims to promote sportsmanship, cultural exchange, and unity among participating nations. Afghanistan's success in the event reflects the resilience and commitment of its athletes, who continue to excel despite challenges.

With this strong performance, Afghanistan's martial arts community looks forward to future competitions, hoping to build on their success and achieve even greater milestones in the international sports arena.

The Kabul Times

Construction of four townships for refugees discussed



KABUL: A joint meeting between the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Afghanistan has been held, focusing on the construction of four townships for refugees, the ministry said in a statement Monday.

The meeting, chaired by Shukrullah Shakir, head of repatriation and reintegration at the ministry, discussed the construction of four townships for refugees in four provinces, according to the statement.

"Our main goal is to assist the people and those in need and to better achieve this objective, technical meetings must be held with the Ministry of Refugees," the statement quoted Farhana Faruqi-Stocker, senior protection and solutions officer at UNHCR, as saying.

The Kabul Times

Rubio heads to Saudi Arabia before Russia talks to end Ukraine war

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio arrives in Saudi Arabia on Monday ahead of expected talks with Russian officials aimed at ending Moscow's nearly three-year war in Ukraine.

The talks come after President Donald Trump last week spoke to Russian President Vladimir Putin by phone and ordered top officials to begin negotiations on the war, which he repeatedly vowed to end during his presidential campaign.

Riyadh, which is also involved in talks with Washington over the future of the Gaza Strip, has played a role in early contacts between the Trump administration, which took office on January 20, and Moscow, helping to secure a prisoner swap last week.



US top diplomat Rubio, who spoke by phone with his Russian counterpart Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Saturday, will meet Russian officials in Saudi Arabia alongside Trump's national security adviser Mike Waltz and White House Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff, a US lawmaker and a source told Reuters.

It was not immediately clear who they would meet from Russia.Russian newspaper Kommersant reported that the talks would take place on Tuesday in the Saudi capital Riyadh, citing unnamed sources.

The talks will be among the first high-level in-person discussions in years between Russian and U.S. officials and are meant to precede a meeting between the US and Russian presidents.

Rubio on Sunday said the coming weeks and days would determine whether Putin is serious about making peace.

Al-Arabiya

Pritam Singh: Singapore opposition leader guilty of lying to parliament

Singapore's opposition leader Pritam Singh has been found guilty of lying under oath to a parliamentary committee.

The charges against Singh relate to his handling of Raeesah Khan, a former lawmaker from his party, who lied to parliament in a separate case.

The verdict in this high-profile trial comes as Singapore is gearing up for its next general election, which must be held by November. Singh's Workers' Party holds nine out of 87 elected seats in parliament.

In Singapore, any MP can lose their seat or be barred from running for office for five years if they are fined at least S$10,000 ($7,440; £5,925) or jailed for more than a year.The verdict on Monday, which lasted more than two hours, was delivered to a packed courtroom. Members of the press who could not fit into the courtroom, including the BBC, viewed a livestream of the verdict from a separate room.District Judge Luke Tan, who delivered the verdict, said several pieces of evidence showed that Singh "never wanted Ms Khan to clarify [her] lie" and had "direct and intimate involvement" in guiding Khan to continue her narrative.

Prosecutors are seeking the maximum fine of S$7,000 ($5,200; £4,200) for each of Singh's two charges, while the defence are asking for S$4,000 ($3,000; £2,400).

Singh, 48, maintained his innocence throughout the trial, arguing that he had wanted to give Khan time to deal with what was a sensitive issue.

Singh's case has gripped the city-state, where a usually uneventful political scene - dominated by the ruling People's Action Party - has in recent years seen a rare string of scandals.

The saga started in August 2021 when Khan claimed in parliament that she had witnessed the police misbehave towards a sexual assault victim. She later admitted that her anecdote was not true.

Khan was fined S$35,000 ($26,000; £21,000) for lying and abusing her parliamentary privilege. She has since resigned from the party and parliament.



During a parliamentary committee investigation into the incident later that year, Khan testified that the party's leaders, including Singh, had told her to "continue with the narrative" despite finding out that it was not true. This was prior to her eventual admission.

Singh denied this, but also said that he had given Khan "too much time to settle herself before closing this issue with her".

The parliamentary committee concluded that Singh was not being truthful and referred the case to the public prosecutor.bbc

India's capital New Delhi hit with 4.0-magnitude earthquake

India's capital New Delhi was jolted awake Monday by powerful tremors from a magnitude 4.0 earthquake, with its epicenter on the edge of the sprawling megacity an hour before dawn.

There were no immediate reports of major damage, but terrified residents rushed outside as buildings shook.

The US Geological Survey said the quake struck at a shallow depth of 10 kilometers (6 miles).

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged people to follow "safety precautions" and stay alert to "possible aftershocks".



"Tremors were felt in Delhi and nearby areas. Urging everyone to stay calm and follow safety precautions, staying alert for possible aftershocks. Authorities are keeping a close watch on the situation," Modi said in a post on social media platform X.

Police issued an emergency number to call for help, saying: "We hope you all are safe, Delhi".

Northern India lies on a major geological fault line where the Indian tectonic plate pushes up into the Eurasian plate, forming the Himalayas, and earthquakes are a regular occurrence. **Al-Arabiya**

Current U.S. hegemonic policies...

From P3

Analysts suggest that internal instability in the U.S. could weaken its global influence and create new challenges for future American administrations.

Furthermore, international affairs experts believe that Trump's policies have weakened the United States' soft power on the global stage.

Withdrawing from international agreements and adopting confrontational approaches have driven many countries away from the U.S., prompting them to form new and independent alliances.

This could weaken America's global standing and diminish international cooperation. A decline in U.S. soft power could have long-term negative effects on international relations and global interests.

In reality, it was the Republicans themselves who knowingly turned on this red warning light for the United States.

American and global analysts believe that Trump's imperialist policies have had far-reaching effects on both the international system and U.S. domestic affairs.

The erosion of global trust in U.S. commitments, intensified military and arms competition, increased economic inequalities, weakened multilateral cooperation, domestic instability, and declining U.S. soft power are among the consequences of these policies.

These effects have not only harmed the U.S. economy and internal security but have also inflicted serious damage on the international system and global relations.

Ultimately, Trump's imperialist policies have created new challenges for the world and destabilized the international order.

The continuation of such policies will not only pose problems for U.S. domestic interests but also threaten global stability.

The End

Firooz Ahmad Ebrahimi